

From: Jeff Nelson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/5/01 12:38am
Subject: Microsoft antitrust settlement

Dear Department of Justice,

I am dissatisfied with the proposed Microsoft antitrust settlement, particularly with the lack of any clause requiring Microsoft to reveal its proprietary file formats. This affects me directly because I mainly use non-Microsoft, competitive products such as Star Office to do my office tasks. When colleagues send me a file in a Microsoft Office format during the next several years, I want to know that I will be able to open it in my software of choice. Because Microsoft also controls the market for office software, they could at present change their file formats and keep them secret to prevent competitors' products from interoperating.

While the proposed settlement has language requiring Microsoft to reveal its middleware APIs, which is good, there should also be a clause requiring Microsoft to reveal its application file formats.

Sincerely,

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